



# *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

## *Executive Office of Environmental Affairs*

*100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900*

*Boston, MA 02114-2119*

Mitt Romney  
GOVERNOR

Kerry Healey  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Ellen Roy Herzfelder  
SECRETARY

Tel: (617) 626-1000  
Fax: (617) 626-1181  
<http://www.mass.gov/envir>

### **State Protects 130 Acres of Wildlife Habitat**

Dunstable, Tyngsboro, MA - The Executive Office of Environmental Affairs and the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife announced that they have permanently protected 130 acres of wildlife habitat in Tyngsboro and Dunstable to compensate for natural resource contamination from the Charles George Reclamation Trust Landfill Superfund Site.

"Land protection in the Commonwealth is vital to healthy, livable communities," said Secretary Ellen Herzfelder. "I'm so pleased that this precious area is permanently protected and can be enjoyed for years in the future."

Funds for the \$1.2 million purchase came from the Charles George Natural Resources Trustee Council composed of representatives from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, the Department of the Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, as well as representatives from the local communities.

The 130-acre Larter property is located just west of the Charles George Landfill. The property consists of active pasture, open meadows, woodlands and wetlands, including a portion of Dunstable Brook.

"Numerous wildlife species will benefit from the protection of this property," said Laura Eaton Poole of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "Because of the variety of habitat on the property, there is an exceptional diversity of songbirds. Grassland birds, deer, fox, coyote and numerous small mammals, amphibians and reptiles, including wood turtles, also use the property."

"The acquisition was made possible because of the Larter Family's conservation ethic and their desire to protect the parcel," said Bill Minior of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. The Division will manage the property for wildlife, and the property will be open to the public.

Ground water and surface water adjacent to the landfill, including Dunstable Brook and Flint Pond, were contaminated with heavy metals such as arsenic, chromium, and lead, and volatile organic compounds from municipal and hazardous wastes disposed at the landfill since the 1950s. The Environmental Protection Agency designated the landfill a Superfund site in 1983, and, using Natural Resource Damage Assessment provisions of Superfund, the Trustees recovered \$1.3 million to compensate for injuries to natural resources.

The Trustee Council developed a Restoration Plan in 2002 outlining use of the settlement funds to compensate for natural resources injured at the landfill. In addition to land protection, other restoration actions include rebuilding the Flint Pond Dam in Tyngsboro and restoring herring in the Concord River.

#### **Contacts:**

Dale Young, MA Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, (617) 626-1134  
Molly Spurduto, US Fish & Wildlife Service, (603) 223-2541

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